

Small biz on track for bright future

**Paul
Nicolaou**



Let's strike a special medal for Sydney's small business creators and owners for their courage, initiative and imagination in the face of a difficult economy.

Their have-a-go attitude has been on full display with the opening of the Sydney Metro extension.

Within weeks of the first driverless trains bringing commuters right into the heart of the city, small businesses were already opening in the Metro's CBD stations.

The cathedral-like Martin Place station provided a great example with new businesses setting up shop – offering everything from a sneaker laundry that doubles as an eatery to a hairdressing salon.

More will follow at other Metro stations and elsewhere

because there will always be people with a bright idea wanting to give it a go, in spite of the high cost of doing business.

And the climate for having a go is improving, with official efforts to boost the night time economy and ensure that Sydney can be a fully fledged 24-hour global city.

Premier Chris Minns and his government are pulling the legislative and regulatory levers to allow businesses to flourish.

Its "vibrancy reforms" passed by Parliament last week are an example.

The Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy John Graham can now intervene on behalf of live music venues. The old saying, "I'm from the government and I'm here to help", now means something.

Venues can be protected where their survival is threatened by noise complaints, vexatious

neighbours or hostile landlords.

As the Minister for Small Business Steve Kamper would understand, small businesses are the engine room of our economy accounting for many thousands of jobs.

We look forward to other initiatives that will make it easier to do business in our wonderful city and support jobs.

Greater Sydney accounted for 594,855 small businesses as at June 2023, 70 per cent of the entire state's.

Being a small business government has a nice ring to it, a responsibility that could be embraced by a minister for Sydney.

Business Sydney has long advocated such a ministerial appointment.

**Paul Nicolaou is executive
director of Business Sydney**